

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM STATUS & AMENDMENTS

Claims 2, 3, 5-14, 17, 19-33, 35-40 and 42 were pending in this application when last examined, and stand rejected.

Claims 7, 20, 21, 33, 39 and 40 have been amended to be in independent form and to incorporate the subject matter of the claims upon which they depended as suggested by the Examiner at page 3 of the Office Action.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite "a skin plaster or a skin patch which is applied and/or attached to the skin" as supported by the disclosure, for example, at page 10, lines 10-12, page 70, line 19 to page 71, line 7 and at page 77, lines 7-12.

Therefore, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-14, 17, 19, 22-32 and 35-38 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation or divisional application on any cancelled subject matter.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 7, 20, 21, 33, 39, 40 and 42 are pending.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-14, 17, 19, 22-32 and 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ohkawa et al., WO 99/63977, Carelli et al., Int. J. of Pharmaceutics, Vol. 88 (1-3), pp. 89-97 (Abstract), Nelson et al., WO 89/07951 and Corbiere, WO 85/04106. See pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

The present amendment overcomes this rejection for reasons which are self-evident.

III. CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 7, 20, 21, 33, 39, 40 and 42 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. See page 3 of the Office Action.

The present amendment overcomes this objection for reasons which are self-evident. Specifically, the above-mentioned claims have been amended into independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 7, 20, 21, 33, 39, 40 and 42 should be in condition for allowance.

It is noted that the remaining rejected claims have been cancelled.

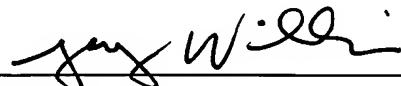
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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